



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

*cl*

| APPLICATION NO.                 | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/918,221                      | 07/30/2001  | Thomas L. Reynolds   | 7784-000261         | 3424             |
| 27572                           | 7590        | 04/20/2004           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. |             |                      | GANAY, STEVEN J     |                  |
| P.O. BOX 828                    |             |                      | ART UNIT            |                  |
| BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303      |             |                      | PAPER NUMBER        |                  |

3752

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2004

*le*

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/918,221

Applicant(s)

REYNOLDS, THOMAS L.

Examiner

Steven J. Ganey

Art Unit

3752

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 17-21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-16 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment filed on February 5, 2004, which has been fully considered in this action.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1- 4 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by GB 2275871.

GB 2275871 shows a fire suppression system comprising all the featured elements of the instant invention. As to “for use with a lavatory of an aircraft” and “for suppressing a fire within a waste container”, such statements of intended use carry no patentable weight.

4. Claims 9, 11, 14-16 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Enk.

Enk shows a fire suppression system comprising all the featured elements of the instant invention and is capable of performing the method steps as claimed.

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 2275871.

GB 2275871 shows all the featured elements of the instant invention except for the valve being integrally formed with the nozzle and being closed by a material having a low melting point. Such nozzles are well known in the fire protection art and could easily be provided in the apparatus of GB 2275871, such as in pre-action sprinkler systems.

7. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enk.

Enk shows all the featured elements of the instant invention except for a gauge in communication with the pressurized fluid source and the valve being an eutectic valve. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a pressure gauge in the pressurized fluid source of Enk, since such a modification provides an individual with a positive visual confirmation for system readiness. As to an eutectic valve, such valves are well known in the fire protection art and could easily be provided in the apparatus of Enk, since as in pre-action sprinkler systems.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

8. Claims 17-21 are allowed.

Art Unit: 3752

*Response to Arguments*

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9, 11-16 and 22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.


As to applicant's arguments concerning Enk, where Enk does not teach releasing material from a primary supply before releasing material from the secondary supply, note col. 14, lines 8-23.

*Conclusion*

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven J. Ganey whose telephone number is (703) 308-2585. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Mar, can be reached on (703) 308-2087. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

  
STEVEN J. GANEY  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
4/19/04

sjg

4/19/04